

Inside this issue:

Message from the Mayor	1
Passage of DC Appropriations Act	2
Community Profile	2
Launch of District's New '211'	3
District Celebrates Customer Service Week	3
DC Delegation Goes to Asia	4
District Activities	4
Community News	5
Upcoming Events	5

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Penn. Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20004  
Phone: (202) 727-2980  
Fax: (202) 727-6561  
<http://dc.gov>

## Message from the Mayor

On October 7, I was joined by District of Columbia public school students, parents and members of the R&B music sensation New Edition to kick off *SOUL: Saving Our Children's Lives in DC*. The event was dedicated to the young lives lost too soon in our city this year. These young people were our sons, our daughters, our nephews and our nieces.

The two goals of this powerful day were to:

- Declare an end to youth violence; and
- Encourage young people to focus on music as a positive alternative outlet to promote and achieve those goals

The members of the musical group New Edition visited three DC public schools and then judged performers at a talent showcase at McKinley Technology High School later in the day. The talent showcase featured some of our city's most talented young people in three categories: rap, dance and R&B. The winner of the contest received a cash prize and studio time to make a professional demo recording.



It has been said, "The greatest natural resource that any country can have is its children." We must continue to treat our children like they are our greatest natural resource. We do this by providing our youth with opportunities to flourish and grow on a personal and professional level.

SOUL in DC was a great example of how our entire community can forge relationships and partnerships to address critical issues that impact our youth. Children can only grow up in the context that we create for them. SOUL in DC was designed to create an environment for our youth to freely explore their talents and dreams.

Thanks go to our young people for participating in the event. I am deeply committed to providing more opportunities for them to explore their talents, fulfill their needs and at the same time have some fun. We must continue to be creative to engage our young people. And we must continue to understand that the issue of youth violence is a challenge for us all. I applaud all of our partners who worked so hard for the benefit of *Saving Our Children's Lives*!



## AGENCY WEBSITES

Office of Tax and  
Revenue

Department of Parks and  
Recreation

Department of  
Employment Services

Metropolitan Police  
Department

Office of Boards and  
Commissions

Commission on the Arts  
and Humanities

# Passage of DC Appropriations Act

I was pleased that on October 6 both houses of the US Congress passed the \$560 million federal appropriations legislation for the District. The bill will now be sent to the White House for President Bush's signature. The swift passage of this appropriation was great news for the residents of the District of Columbia.

The DC Appropriations bill contains funding for a number of our priorities, including the DC Tuition Assistance Grant program, the Combined Sewer Overflow Long-Term Control Plan, public transportation, child welfare programs, a new bioterrorism and forensics lab and the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative.

I am particularly pleased by the continued full funding for the Tuition Assistance Grant program, which is now in its fifth year and is helping thousands of District residents afford college, many of whom are the first in their families to attend college. The program is currently sending students to more than 150 public and private colleges nationwide. It is necessary for the federal government to assist these young adults and their families in paying for college because the District lacks the tax base to support a robust state university system.

I am grateful to Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton, our champion on Capitol Hill, who worked so hard to help us achieve this swift and successful passage of the DC Appropriations Act. Thanks, too, to Senator Mike DeWine and Senator Mary Landrieu, who shepherded the legislation through the US Senate, and to Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen and Congressman Chakah Fattah for doing so in the House. They responded to virtually every priority that the city identified, and they prevented the addition of anti-Home Rule social riders including the repeal of the city's gun control laws.

## Community Profile Demetrius Price

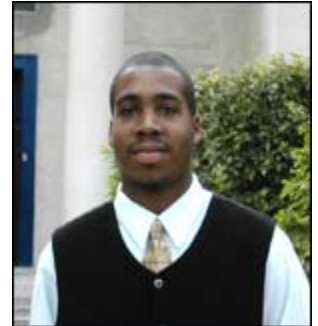
Students at Anacostia High School nicknamed Demetrius Price "Preacher" because he wore a suit every day and was vocal about his strong faith in God. Demetrius is a proud life-long Ward 8 resident who has made a significant impact on his former high school and the Congress Heights community. He was elected citywide student government president for DC Public Schools.

"It is one thing to talk about the problem and it is another thing to do something about the problem," Demetrius said. "I had a vision to help this school."

As president of the student body at Anacostia, Demetrius was responsible for numerous student activities, including challenging the school to create and deliver hundreds of Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas baskets to low-income families in the neighborhood. He also led a toy drive for patients at Children's Hospital. He says that "you cannot be a good leader if you cannot be a good server."

Demetrius counseled his peers during a tragic school shooting incident that occurred during his senior year. He is also a junior deacon at the Disciples of Christ Outreach Ministry, where he preaches every fourth Sunday to the 75-member congregation. Demetrius is now attending Washington Bible College where he plans to major in pastoral studies.

Demetrius is the September youth winner of the Mayor's Community Service Award, sponsored by Serve DC. If you would like to nominate a youth or adult for the monthly award, visit [www.serve.dc.gov](http://www.serve.dc.gov) for nomination information or call (202) 727-7925.



## Launch of District's New '211'

On October 5, I joined city leaders and District government employees to announce that District of Columbia residents can now dial 211 on their telephones to seek social services information and referrals 24 hours a day, seven days a week through the DC Department of Human Services' *Answers, Please!* call center.

By dialing 211, District residents in crisis can learn which government agencies and nonprofit, community-based organizations are available to help them with critical programs and services. The District of Columbia is the first jurisdiction in this region to implement dialing 211. Dialing 211 in the District was made possible by the DC Public Service Commission, DC Office of the People's Counsel, Verizon Communications Inc., and the District's Department of Human Services.

So why is 211 so important? Many of our city's residents can't afford food, clothing, shelter, medical care, or daycare. Many are physically or mentally abused. Many are elderly, on fixed incomes, or sometimes can't afford to pay their rent, utility bills, and buy food all at the same time. Many of them can't read, many need to get their GED, or need job training. And many DC teenagers and adults need mental health services.

Now, all of those residents can dial 211 to seek help. It's our role to get the word out that 211 is their place for answers. The bottom line is that 211 is a one-stop number for residents to access social and human services information and referrals.

## The District Celebrates Customer Service Week

Few activities are more important in our city than encouraging our employees to provide excellent customer service in responding to the needs of DC residents.

This year, we observed National Customer Service week from October 4 through October 8. First launched by the International Customer Service Association in 1988, Customer Service Week has become a national event, as proclaimed by Congress. The overall purpose of the week is to create a positive message regarding customer service for our constituency and to provide a productive opportunity to generate a stronger commitment to customer service excellence internally. This year was the District government's fourth annual observance of National Customer Service Week.

The main goals of the celebration are to:

- Boost morale and teamwork throughout the government
- Reward employees for their commitment
- Thank employees for their support of the customer service initiative
- Remind constituents that the government is committed to customer satisfaction

By making the choice to be government employees, we must meet and exceed the challenge to provide efficient and effective government service. I'm extremely proud of all of the award recipients and their efforts to help realize the city's vision for customer service.

Consider three of this year's awardees who stepped up to the challenge:

- Betty Scippio and Chaundry Riaz, both parking officers with the Department of Public Works, continue to set the example for other employees on the front line of service. While ticket writing can be difficult, these employees have been commended numerous times by both citizens and private organizations for their skillfulness and tact in performing their duties.
- Vivian James, Customer Service Team Leader with the Office of Tax and Revenue, receives compliments on her exemplary performance by customers of the Tax Office on a regular basis. She is always on time, flexible, and knowledgeable, and she consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty.

Our participation in this national celebration is testament to the fact that we continue to improve service in the District. All of us are responsible for customer service. So when you have the opportunity, make a commitment to being a team player and show how dedicated you are to serving this great city.



## DC Delegation Goes to Asia

Last week, I announced that from October 14 through October 24, I will join five members of the DC Council, as well as senior executives from my administration, local business people and community leaders, for a journey to Asia in furtherance of two sister city agreements between the District of Columbia and Beijing and Bangkok, respectively.

This is a tremendous opportunity for us to tap into the burgeoning Chinese economy. In reaching out to further our city's relationship with China, we market the District as the nation's capital and as one of the finest places in the United States for tourists from Asia to explore when they visit. The trip will also help us build partnerships that can result in increased economic development for our city.

From October 15 – 20, the delegation will travel to Beijing, China. During that time, there will be discussions on government operations, housing and economic development, tourism, and the development of cultural and educational exchanges and activities. These activities take place under the rubric of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the District of Columbia and the People's Government of Beijing Municipality, now in its 20th year.

I will then lead the delegation to Shanghai for two days, October 20 – 21. Shanghai is the leading business center of the People's Republic of China. The delegation will meet with Shanghai Mayor Han Zheng and with members and staff of the US Foreign Commercial Service, the American Chamber of Commerce, and local Chinese businesses. The goal of these meetings is to encourage Chinese businesses to enter into partnerships with District-based businesses and to open offices in the District.

From October 22 – 24, the delegation will be in Bangkok, Thailand, the District's other Asian Sister City. I will reaffirm the partnership that includes exchange in the areas of culture, economic cooperation, business and commercial collaboration, and education, sports, health and science. We also plan to meet with the Governor of Bangkok, the Permanent Secretary of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration and members of the Bangkok Parliament.

## District Activities



Mayor Williams and City Administrator Robert Bobb display one of the trophies given out at the Mayor's Cup golf event at Langston Golf Course in Northeast Washington.



Mayor Williams, in partnership with R&B sensation New Edition, hosted a citywide Talent Showcase on October 7, at McKinley Technology High School in Northeast Washington.



On October 13, Mayor Williams at his weekly press briefing proclaimed October 2004 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Mayor Williams presented the proclamation to DC Department of Health Director Gregory Pane and Diane Adams, a breast cancer survivor.



## Community News

- [DC/Prince George's Connect with Communities on the Border](#)
- [Health Department Issues Emergency Rule Restricting Distribution of Flu Vaccines](#)
- [Mayor Releases Statement on Senator Mark Dayton's Decision to Close His DC office](#)

[View All News Releases](#)

## Upcoming Events

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| 10/16 | <b>Race for Mental Health</b><br>9 am (participants should arrive between 8 am and 8:45 am to get their race packets)<br>Carter Barron Amphitheatre<br>16th and Kennedy Streets, NW<br>Contact: (202) 671-4013   |
| 10/16 | <b>Barracks Row Main Street 3rd Annual Festival</b><br>All Day<br>500-700 blocks of 8th Street SE<br>Contact: Bill McLeod, <a href="mailto:bmcleod@barracksrow.org">bmcleod@barracksrow.org</a> , (202) 544-3188 |
| 10/23 | <b>DPW E-Cycling Day</b><br>9 am – 3 pm<br>Carter Barron Amphitheatre<br>16th and Kennedy Streets, NW<br>Rear parking lot<br>Contact: Citywide Call Center (202) 727-1000  |

